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### Grant allows exchanges between Montana, Kyrgyzstan

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Oct. 14, 2004

**Contact:** Jeff Renz, UM law professor, (406) 243-5127.

### **GRANT ALLOWS EXCHANGES BETWEEN MONTANA, KYRGYZSTAN**

#### **MISSOULA —**

The University of Montana School of Law, with assistance from the UM Office of International Programs, has been awarded a \$243,000 Freedom Support Educational Partnerships Program grant from the U.S. Department of State.

The grant provides for exchanges between the UM law school and Osh State University law faculty in Kyrgyzstan, a former Soviet republic located near Afghanistan.

Osh State faculty members visiting the Montana law school will learn methods of integrating theory and practice in the classroom and UM's approach to clinical education. Montana law faculty members will visit Kyrgyzstan next spring to conduct workshops on theory and practice, and both faculty groups will teach seminars during their respective visits.

UM also will help Osh State develop an externship program based on the Montana model, in which final-year law students are placed in a public or nonprofit legal office outside the law school and closely supervised.

"This will add to the long and rich relationship between the state of Montana and the Kyrgyz Republic," said UM law Professor Jeffrey Renz, the co-principal investigator for the project.

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“We are unbelievably happy that we had positive results on the project,” said Professor Jenishbek Nouretovic, assistant dean on International Relations and coordinator of the Center for Human Rights at Osh State.

Founded before 1,000 B.C., the city of Osh is located in southern Kyrgyzstan. Osh State University was established in 1992, and it now has a student body of about 26,000. The Osh State law school has 2,000 students.

The Freedom Support Educational Partnerships Program assists U.S. colleges and universities with building lasting and productive partnerships with their counterparts in Eurasia. The program is coordinated by the U.S. Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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